

subject with 50 per cent responsibility with the State Government and 50 per cent with the Central Government. The Central Government will not look into the tariff structure... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BENERJEE : Sir, who will finance it? The State Governments are increasing the tariffs. Why are you not giving any subsidy to the agriculture sector?... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, our economy is an agricultural economy unlike the industrial economies that we find in the developed countries. The farming community is faced with a lot of difficulties on account of natural calamities relating to either drought conditions or heavy snowfall conditions like cyclone, etc. I want to ask the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Power and Minister of State in the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources: Since the Government's declared policy is in favour of the farming community as such, by and large, do you not feel that you must pull up all the State Electricity Boards which have to take all the decisions either giving certain tariff incentives or subsidy incentives, etc.?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bangarappa, you have only ten seconds more. Please ask your question.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Therefore, the farming community have to be given a lot of incentives in respect of two areas. One is subsidy in the agricultural operations including power to their pumpsets and also the concession in the area of power tariff. (Interruptions) The Government has proposed many things in favour of the farming community. Do you not feel that a lot of subsidies and also tariff concessions are to be given to the farming community? As a matter of fact, the United Front Government's declared policy is in favour of the farming community. Then, accordingly, will you give suitable instructions to all the State Governments to extend all the facilities to the farming community? ... (Interruptions)

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : Sir, as the hon. Member, Shri Bangarappa knows, agriculture continues to be subsidised by the respective State Governments only. In the past two or three months, we have been having discussions and consultations with the Secretaries of the Departments of Power and the concerned Electricity Boards. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister also has convened the Chief Ministers' meeting for this purpose. Soon, we are finalising the Draft

Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power. It covers all the points raised by the hon. Member ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Purohit made a submission to provide subsidy in power tariff to farmers. In Madhya Pradesh farmers are provided electricity free of cost. Do the Central Government propose to give subsidy to Madhya Pradesh as special assistance?

[English]

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI : No, Sir ... (Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Royalty on Petroleum

*187. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the present arrangement/procedure in deciding royalty on petroleum and petroleum products to States;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken notice of the meeting to be convened by the Chief Minister of Gujarat of all oil producing States in the country to give them royalty in kind instead of cash;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the amount of royalty paid during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Royalty on crude oil and natural gas is governed by the provisions of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959.

(b) and (c) The Government is not aware of any such meeting.

(d) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

(Rs. crores)

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Crude Oil	Natural Gas
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gujarat	306.72	29.12	320.41	29.75	327.16	37.53
Assam	239.87	4.25	254.15	3.63	250.99	3.72

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Tamilnadu	19.18	0.32	20.43	0.23	19.50	0.32
Andhra Pradesh	1.68	8.30	2.02	8.31	2.32	9.24
Arunachal Pradesh	2.83	Negligible	1.91	Negligible	1.40	Negligible
Others	4.34	0.61	0.54	0.59	-	0.85

Oil Refining

*188. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the present oil refining capacity of the country;
- (b) whether the Government have chalked out any programme to increase the oil refining;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent by which the oil refining capacity of the country is likely to be increased by the year 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) The existing oil refinery capacity in the country is 60.55 MMTPA.

(b) and (c). Efforts are being made to increase the refining capacity in the country by taking up expansion/debottlenecking of existing refineries and by setting up of new grass root refineries in the Public Sector and Joint Sector. Government has also allowed private investment including foreign investment in the Refining Sector.

(d) In pursuance of the liberalisation of Industrial Policy, Letters of Intent have been granted to a number of companies for setting up of Refineries in the private sector for about 70 MMTPA including Export Oriented Units. On materialisation of all the proposals, refining capacity at the end of 9th Plan is estimated to be about 130.75 MMTPA, excluding EOU's capacity.

Setting up of Electronic Industries

*189. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any study has been conducted for setting up of Electronics Industries in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether any requests have come from various State Governments including the State of Kerala for assistance to set up such industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). While no specific study has been conducted to identify States for setting up of electronic industries, the Government of India encourage the setting up of electronic industries throughout the country in all relevant sectors of electronics. The concerned State Government or agencies like the State Electronics Development Corporation (SEDCs) provide some facilities and promotional incentives for setting up of specific industrial units in the State. The Department of Electronics gives necessary guidance and approvals/licences, etc. The Software Technology Park Scheme and the Electronic Hardware Technology Park Scheme have been especially designed to encourage the growth of software and hardware sectors of Electronics. The Department of Electronics also provides some assistance for projects in areas such as manpower development, quality certification, testing and standardisation, R and D in electronics, etc.

(c) and (d). A proposal for financial assistance for setting up an Innovation Centre at the Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram has been received from the State Government of Kerala. Preliminary examination of the proposal has been done in consultation with the representatives of the State Government.

National Task Force

*190. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Task Force for Power Sector has been set up by the Government recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition and responsibilities entrusted to it;
- (c) whether the task force has since submitted its report to the Government;
- (d) if so, the details and recommendations thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have initiated any follow up action to implement the recommendations made in the report; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?